



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Streamlining Commission Analysis

Recommendation No. **RECOMMENDATION 143**  
Streamlining Draft **AGEB 5**

<b>Date:</b> December 21, 2009 11:10 AM	<b>Author:</b>
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Corrections	<b>Analyst:</b> Matthew LaBruyere
<b>Subject:</b> GED Program	

Proposed recommendation by the Commission on Streamlining Government calls for the Department of Public Safety & Corrections - Corrections Services provide that a Louisiana state prisoner who does not have a high school diploma or who has not passed the General Education Development test (GED) certifying that he has an American high school academic skills, shall have made available to him a program designed to help him pass the GED.

EXPENDITURES	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The proposed recommendation by the Commission on Streamlining Government that calls for the Department of Corrections to provide offenders lacking a high school diploma or GED the available programs to help him/her pass the GED is currently in operation at all 12 state facilities. For FY 09, 39 teachers in 12 state facilities taught over 4,500 offenders, with 856 offenders completing the program. Offenders interested in participating in educational programs must apply for enrollment. Enrollment in educational programs are based on a priority basis with offenders within three years of their work release eligibility date given top priority.

Prior to enrollment in a program, each offender is screened and assessed using the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) to ensure the offender is placed in the appropriate program. Educational programs allow for flexible scheduling so the offender can enter the program at any time and proceed at his/her own pace. All of the educational programs apply a written, standardized competency based curriculum with the appropriate materials and classroom resources. Once enrolled in an ABE/GED program, offenders are tested quarterly to measure academic progress.

To the extent that the recommendation includes state offenders housed in local prisons, there would be an increase in state general fund expenditures. Most offenders housed in local facilities do not have access to educational programs, thus additional teachers would be needed to educate offenders in local facilities. The number of additional teachers needed is indeterminable, however any increase in teachers would result in an increase in state general fund expenditures. There are almost 20,000 offenders housed in 122 local facilities around the state with state offender populations ranging from 910 in Jackson Parish to 1 in the Ville Platte City Jail. The disparity in numbers of offenders at each local facility presents logistical difficulties in estimating the number of teachers necessary to provide sufficient instruction while minimizing excess teaching capacity due to likely negligible numbers of participating offenders at certain facilities.

The same problem is realized when determining the number of additional GED tests to be given each year. It would depend on how many offenders enrolled and prepared to take the GED. Any increase in GEDs in a given in year will lead to an increase in state general fund expenditures.

(Continued on page 2)

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F) >= \$500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost	 H. Gordon Monk Legislative Fiscal Officer
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease	



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An alternative to reduce costs associated with providing educational programs to state offenders housed in local facilities could be the use of distance learning. The states of Washington and Ohio both offered instruction through distance learning and achieved different results. Washington employed a system that allowed offenders to watch instructional tapes in a group or alone. The offenders in Washington were not able to concentrate and keep up with the instructional tapes. Offenders in Washington preferred hands-on instruction that allowed them to move at their own pace.

Ohio used a system that would broadcast a teacher in one classroom to other facilities around the state. Offenders in other facilities were able to ask questions via the broadcast as well. However, Ohio did keep a teacher in each classroom to assist offenders. Ohio has stopped using the system because of out-of-date equipment, but would use the system again if the funding was available for new technology. The costs to implement either of these distance learning systems is indeterminable but anticipated to be significant.